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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,052	12/19/2000	Bruce Perlmutter	10360-079001/13361HUUS01U	4810
34645	7590	09/15/2004	EXAMINER	
JOHN C. GORECKI, ESQ. 180 HEMLOCK HILL ROAD CARLISLE, MA 01741				DUONG, DUC T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2663	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/740,052	PERLMUTTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duc T. Duong	2663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-18 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In view of the Appeal's Brief filed on June 10, 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma et al (U.S. Patent 5,953,338) in view of Jang et al (U.S. Publishing 2001/0043571 A1).

Regarding to claims 1 and 10, Ma discloses a system for managing bandwidth of a remote link in a virtual private network VPN 170 (Fig. 1) comprising a server 160 (Fig.

2 col. 7 lines 5-14), a contention pool 401 or 402 having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group (Fig. 4A col. 11 lines 11-26), and a meter 145 for metering the packets belonging to the application group (col. 7 lines 20-38).

Ma fails to teach for the server is virtual private network VPN server configured to at least one authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.

However, Jang discloses a data communication system comprising a video conferencing switch 12 (server) comprising a VPN tunneling module 411 configured for authentication, encryption, and compression of packets (Fig. 4A-B page 6 paragraph 0066).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ the conferencing switch 12 with VPN processing as taught by Jang in Ma's server 160. The motivation to do so would have been to enhance the server processing capability by providing authentication, encryption, and compression to packets so that a higher level of security and quality of services can be achieved.

Regarding to claims 3 and 12, Ma discloses all the limitation with respect to claims 1 and 10 including the server is directly connected to other links 302 having larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote links 310-316 (Fig. 3 col. 9 lines 1-13).

Regarding to claims 4 and 13, Ma discloses the packets belonging to the application group (virtual path) share a pre-defined configuration (quality of service), and see col. 10 line 67 and col. 11 lines 1-2.

Regarding to claims 5 and 14, Ma discloses all the limitation with respect to claims 1 and 10 including the packets belonging to the application group contend equally for the portion of the bandwidth (Fig. 6 col. 11 lines 60-63).

Regarding to claims 6 and 15, Ma discloses the meter manages flow rate of the packets going through the server in either direction (Fig. 1B col. 6 lines 5-19).

Regarding to claims 7 and 16, Ma discloses the meter rejects the packets if the flow rate exceeds the assigned portion of the bandwidth (col. 8 lines 1-12).

Regarding to claims 8 and 17, Ma discloses all the limitation with respect to claims 1 and 10 including a user interface (client) that allows a user to specify the bandwidth of the link (Fig. 6 col. 9 lines 25-32).

Regarding to claims 9 and 18, Ma discloses all the limitation with respect to claims 1 and 10 including a user interface (client) that allows a user to specify the assigned portion of the bandwidth (Fig. 6 col. 11 lines 66-67 and col. 8 lines 1-18).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed June 10, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding to Applicant's argument on pages 3-4 that the Ma's reference fail to teach for "a server for metering packets belonging to an application group". In Fig. 9A-B, col. 7 lines 20-26 and col. 8 lines 13-24, Ma discloses the central control server 160 monitoring and checking the traffic load and utilization level of the virtual path group (metering the packets...). Thus, based on the reasons set forth the rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc T. Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-3122. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (9:00 AM-6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DD
DD

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